

March 8, 2011

Dear Michigan Lawmakers:

Today, we are joining together from communities across Michigan to ask with one voice that the Michigan Legislature work immediately to modernize the state's outdated Michigan Telecommunications Act (MTA) in an effort to stimulate economic growth and attract investment for Michigan.

In 2005, the Michigan Legislature updated portions of the MTA, sending the signal to the rest of the nation that they were serious about jobs and innovation. The reform they crafted made Michigan a national leader in the fight for telecommunications growth and created significant investment right here in the Great Lakes State.

Unfortunately, we have relinquished that leadership role. In the last six years, technology has changed. The way our job makers and families communicate has changed. Other states have changed. Our regulations have not. States like Indiana have enacted much more progressive reforms leaving Michigan in the rearview mirror. Others in our region are modernizing as well, building a telecommunications and regulatory superhighway to job creation and economic growth.

If Michigan is going to pass them on that highway, we desperately need to update our telecommunications law. What's more, in the spirit of reinvention, making these critical reforms will not cost taxpayers or the state treasury a single dime.

Simply put, 20th century regulations are standing in the way of 21st century jobs and technology. Reinventing Michigan means clearing these roadblocks to investment and innovation.

We urge you to modernize the state's telecommunications law and make Michigan a national leader once again.



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